

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Zoom webinar

Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Natalie Guess, Vice Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Mark Havard

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We will call the January
2 19th, 2021, Commission on Marine Resources meeting to
3 order.

4 I would like to ask Commissioner Guess to lead
5 us in our Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Commissioner
8 Guess.

9 Today, I think we will do something a little bit
10 different.

11 If you don't mind, Director, could you start us
12 out with a prayer this morning, instead of just a moment
13 of silence?

14 JOE SPRAGGINS: I would be more than glad to.
15 Gracious Heavenly Father, we just ask that
16 you take this group of people and give us
17 the knowledge and wisdom to do the things
18 you would have us to do and to run this
19 agency the way you would have it done.
20 Lord, lead, guide and direct each one of
21 us, keep us all healthy and safe and, Lord,
22 just bless America. We ask this in Jesus
23 Christ's name. Amen.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that,
25 Director.

1 Can we get approval of the minutes from the
2 December 15th, 2020, meeting?

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Bosarge
5 makes the motion.

6 Do I have a second?

7 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Was that you, Natalie?

9 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Natalie seconds.

11 All those in favor.

12 Commissioner Guess?

13 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Bosarge?

15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Havard?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'm not sure we've got
19 him on.

20 Commissioner Daniels is an aye.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: He's on there, but I don't know
22 why he's not talking.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Mark, can you hear us?

24 (No response.)

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We've got three voting

1 yes, approving the minutes.

2 Can we get a motion to approve today's agenda?

3 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Guess makes
5 the motion. I'll second it.

6 All those in favor.

7 Commissioner Guess?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I think something is
10 going on with her microphone. We will come back to her.

11 Commissioner Bosarge?

12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Daniels is
14 an aye.

15 Commissioner Guess, are you there?

16 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Havard, are
18 you here yet?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We've got three to zero
21 to approve today's agenda.

22 Director, are you ready?

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: I am.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Turning it over to you.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: I've got a slide for employment

1 and contracts.

2 Patrick Webb is now one of our Lieutenants. He
3 got promoted in Marine Patrol.

4 Courtney walker has been promoted to Marine
5 Fisheries IV.

6 Brittany Crews is now Lead Contract Analyst.
7 She was just hired in the place Michele Williams was in
8 and she moved down to CZM.

9 Janie Ballew is a new Procurement Specialist.
10 We are about full up in that area. That is good
11 to have those.

12 Any questions on that?

13 (No response.)

14 JOE SPRAGGINS: No new contracts.

15 Then, we will move on to agency update. Well,
16 obviously, the session is in. We have been talking to the
17 legislators on a regular basis and the governor's office.

18 One of the things that I'm hoping to have for
19 today, they are having an appropriations meeting for
20 special funds and I couldn't be there for it, but I'm
21 hoping that they will give us the additional spending
22 authority to be able to spend the Tidelands.

23 what happened was last year when they did it,
24 they only gave us seven point one million, or seven point
25 three million, whatever the number was, and never is

1 enough when you have outstanding and, when we say
2 outstanding, they didn't give us enough of managed project
3 funding to be able to take the things that we have with
4 USM and a lot of the things that we are doing here with
5 water quality and other things and be able to do the
6 tests.

7 we were able to pay the salaries and they gave
8 us a little bit, but, we weren't able to do a lot of the
9 work that we have. So it was a little over two million
10 dollars worth that we had to put on hold and, hopefully,
11 once they break that loose, we will be able to start
12 everybody back and that should be, hopefully, this week,
13 or next week. That will be a big thing for us.

14 we have three bills sitting at the House and the
15 Senate. One of the bills is to be able to take Marine
16 Patrol officers who have been retired under the PERS
17 system under some other agency and allow them to be a
18 Marine Patrol Reserve; not Marine Patrol Officer, but as a
19 Marine Patrol Reserve.

20 If somebody retired from like Gulfport PD, or
21 Biloxi, or Harrison County, or something else, and they
22 are under the PERS system, this will allow us to be able
23 to let them work with us as Reserve Officers which is
24 right. We are the only agency in the state that does not
25 have that capability, and they are going to fix it for us,

1 I hope, and I know that Representative Felsher dropped
2 that bill. So we will see.

3 The other one is the high water mark and that is
4 to be able to straighten out the high water mark that we
5 had with the issue before so that we can be able to tell
6 people, without them having to go to the Corps, or
7 somewhere else, about being able to build a bulkhead.

8 Last year they had some questions about the
9 wording and this year I think we've got it straightened
10 out.

11 The other one is to clarify some issues on 827,
12 House Bill 827.

13 All of those are being put in. We are waiting
14 on that to come back. Hopefully, they will all hit and
15 the Senate and the House vote. They claim they are going
16 to drop them. We will see what happens.

17 There are a couple of other bills out there.
18 There is one that has been dropped by one of the House
19 members that says that everything that you do to seafood
20 has to be marked -- basically, if you have a menu, or
21 whatever -- where it came from.

22 I've got some issues with that and I talked with
23 some of the legislators about it and I told them, I said,
24 let's just make sure we don't make this crazy.

25 Once again, I don't mind -- if somebody is

1 selling Asian shrimp, or something like that, or China, or
2 wherever they came from, I don't mind putting that. That
3 is not the question.

4 I just don't want to put an undue process on all
5 of the people who have -- basically, the restaurants and
6 all, they have to change their menu every hour.

7 They are working on that. The legislators are
8 good. They are great people. They will work it out.

9 I'm not saying that it is wrong. Just be
10 careful with it.

11 Any questions on what is going on in Jackson?

12 (No response.)

13 JOE SPRAGGINS: I have not heard about the
14 Commissioners. We have three Commissioners for
15 reappointment, or either to appoint someone else.

16 I talked with the governor's office about that
17 last week again, and they said everybody is covered until
18 the end of the 2021 session. As long as this session is
19 not sine die, then, you are fine. Everybody is covered.

20 It is just taking time. Everybody has got a lot
21 to do. Please be patient with us on that.

22 Any other questions?

23 (No response.)

24 JOE SPRAGGINS: CARES Act. We got the approval
25 from the governor's office yesterday, as a matter of fact,

1 to go forward with the CARES Act.

2 Just to give you an idea, I wish I had a slide.
3 We got the last minute on this.

4 Just to give you an idea, we had a hundred and
5 eighty-seven commercial fishing personnel file. A hundred
6 and sixty-eight of them were found eligible and nineteen
7 ineligible.

8 Out of charter boats, we had forty-nine apply.
9 Forty-four were found eligible and five ineligible.

10 Out of dealers, we had twenty apply. Thirteen
11 were found eligible and seven ineligible.

12 We will start giving the funds out this week,
13 hopefully.

14 Traci is sending that to Gulf States as we
15 speak.

16 Traci, are you on?

17 TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

18 We will be sending that along to Gulf States,
19 and they are advising it is taking about four weeks to get
20 the payments out.

21 It has to go through a review by NOAA and we
22 will be helping them with that.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Traci, I think it's okay for us
24 to give the numbers out, since we are sending it to Gulf
25 States.

1 Right?

2 TRACI FLOYD: It will still have to be approved
3 by NOAA, sir.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: So you want to wait, before we
5 do that?

6 TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: I don't want to give the wrong
8 numbers out and somebody come back and say, well, I didn't
9 get that.

10 Let's just leave that as it is right now, and we
11 will give you the numbers of how much each one is going to
12 get, as soon as we get that approved by NOAA, and that
13 shouldn't take too long. Hopefully, that will go pretty
14 quick.

15 Any questions on the CARES Act from any of the
16 Commissioners?

17 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Mr. Joe, I believe the
18 request we had last time was for that information.

19 That's the reason we didn't get it is we are
20 waiting to get it all straight, before you send it out?

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: well, I thought we sent it out.
22 we sent y'all what we had, I think. We do not
23 the numbers.

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I haven't received
25 anything, Mr. Joe.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay. I'm going to go back. I
2 am almost sure we did. Let me go back and double check,
3 but I am sorry because I remember us looking at it.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I got that email the day
5 after the meeting, I believe, or the afternoon of the
6 meeting, Joe.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner Bosarge, I will get
8 it sent to you ASAP.

9 Did anyone else not get it?

10 Commissioner Guess, did you get it?

11 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I got it, and all of us are
12 on that email that you sent. It was from December 15th.

13 JOE SPRAGGINS: It could have been a glitch,
14 Commissioner Bosarge, but we will resend you one.

15 Okay?

16 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Joe, you know how it is.
17 I probably just missed it. I caught myself looking, but
18 evidently I missed it, but I will look again.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS: It isn't anything unusual in the
20 world of my days.

21 I will get it to you ASAP.

22 Okay?

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Thank you,
24 sir.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: Any other questions?

1 (No response.)

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: I'm glad to see we are getting
3 some money moving on the CARES Act.

4 The Bonnet Carre, we are still waiting on NOAA.
5 We have sent it in and we have given the spend plan to
6 them on how we would like to do it.

7 Once again, I don't want to put out the numbers
8 on that either, until we get something back from NOAA to
9 tell us that they can do it.

10 As soon as we get that back, then, we will let
11 y'all know, as far as the Commission, as to what the spend
12 plan is and, hopefully, we will get that back soon.

13 Rick, are you on?

14 RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Any update, other than that?

16 RICK BURRIS: No, sir.

17 As we were kind of anticipating, this is a
18 pretty lengthy process, but, as soon as we get back their
19 review, we will start working on a rebuttal and it will go
20 back and forth, and, then, we will finally get that
21 approved plan.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: As soon as we can get something
23 out of it and, once again, I'm pretty sure there is a big
24 shakeup in NOAA right now, with the new regime taking over
25 the presidency tomorrow, and I'm sure that there will be

1 some changes in the direction and who is in charge. This
2 may take us a little bit longer than what we anticipated,
3 just because of that. So everybody bear with us.

4 Any questions on the Bonnet Carre?

5 (No response.)

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: Action Update from prior
7 meeting, Sandy.

8 SANDY CHESNUT: There were three items discussed
9 at the December meeting.

10 The first one was to establish a no wake zone
11 for Simmons Bayou around the area of Eagle Pine Island.

12 The second was the closed season for the use of
13 crab traps in public waters for derelict crab trap clean-
14 up for ten days between January 15th and February 15th.

15 The third was a State Saltwater Finfish Record
16 for All Tackle for Striped Mullet for Joey Beasarcon, Sr.

17 The Commission recommended approval of all the
18 above and the Director approved the requests, and there
19 are no pending items.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS: Any questions, Commissioners?

21 (No response.)

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sonja, you have the Tidelands
23 Update?

24 SONJA SLATER: Yes, sir, I do.

25 This is the FY2023 Tidelands schedule for

1 applications. We will start accepting again on May 31st
2 and we will stop accepting on July 1st. Everything else is
3 set up the same as every year.

4 We should know in April of 2022 what the 2021
5 awards are, and we will send out the project awards in
6 November, or December.

7 The next slide, please.

8 We received a hundred and thirteen applications
9 that were submitted in our 2022 proposal cycle, and sixty-
10 three were public access, fifty were managed projects.

11 There was a total of forty million six hundred
12 and forty-six thousand nineteen dollars requested.

13 We were only appropriated seven million three
14 forty-nine for this year. Obviously, we are not going to
15 have enough funds to fill all of the requests that we
16 received in 2022.

17 Next slide.

18 The public access awards were awarded by the
19 legislature. So all of these cities and counties have
20 already received their awards.

21 They awarded a total of five million one zero
22 nine to public access projects. Eighteen of them went to
23 the cities, three of them went to the board of supervisors
24 and there were two miscellaneous projects which don't fit
25 into the city, or board of supervisors, category.

1 Next slide, please.

2 The managed projects awards have not yet been
3 awarded. Joe can elaborate on that. If you include the
4 bond payment, we were allocated two point two million,
5 but, of course, you can see the bond payment was one
6 million point two. We have been holding off on the
7 managed projects funds and waiting for this legislative
8 cycle to allot us some more money.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sonja, it is not necessarily a
10 lot more money. It is just they need to give us spending
11 authority, and the reason for that is the million thirty-
12 nine, that was not even enough to really pay the salaries
13 that we have under it, Commissioners. So what we are
14 doing is we have held off doing any managed projects,
15 other than water quality. We are doing that and we are
16 stretching it a little bit to be able to take care of that
17 to make sure that the seafood is safe to eat.

18 Other than that, we are just mainly paying
19 salaries and hope that we will get that straightened out
20 with the new -- it's called the Deficit Spending Bill that
21 will come out that will have the additional spending
22 authority so we can go forward.

23 SONJA SLATER: That is all I had, Joe, unless
24 anyone had any other questions.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner Daniels, that is my

1 report, as far as the Executive Director, unless you have
2 anything else you would like to address.

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that, Joe.
4 Commissioners report.
5 Do we have any Commissioners to report anything
6 today?

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I do not, Commissioner
8 Daniels.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: There he is. Welcome,
10 Mark.

11 Joe, if I may, I just thought about this while
12 we were sitting here. I would have brought it up to you
13 earlier, if I had thought about it ahead of time.

14 This past year, we went out and marked some
15 concrete in Bay St. Louis that is a very clear hazard to
16 boaters and safety.

17 That stuff has all gone away again now, and I
18 think we need to look into getting something a little more
19 permanent over there. Especially during these winter
20 months whenever we've got these lower tides, we've got
21 concrete that is literally an inch, or two, under the
22 water over there.

23 Whenever I got on the boat and went out with
24 Marine Patrol to look at it, we hit a couple of pieces of
25 it.

1 If we could look back into that and see about
2 getting something a little more permanent over there to
3 mark that to keep people from tearing their boats up, or
4 possibly getting hurt.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner Daniels, are you
6 talking about the stuff around the bridge, or are you
7 talking somewhere else?

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. It is that same
9 stuff that we went out and looked at last year, and the
10 department went out and put some markers up around it to
11 kind of let people know that it is there, but those
12 markers are now gone with the storm and everything that
13 went through.

14 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, if you don't mind,
15 hang on one second.

16 Chief, are you on?

17 I think y'all have already gone out and marked
18 that differently, haven't you?

19 KYLE WILKERSON: Yes. As a matter of fact,
20 within this last month we just went out and put several
21 buoys along that perimeter and it says "HAZARD" on it.

22 So it has been covered, Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Oh. Great. I have not
24 been over there in the past couple of weeks. We had
25 talked about it a month, or month-and-a-half ago,

1 something like that. That is great. Thank you. I didn't
2 know about it.

3 That's all I've got.

4 Chief, while you are on here, you want to go
5 ahead and take over?

6 KYLE WILKERSON: Sure. I hope everybody is
7 well, Director, Commissioners, counsel.

8 Seeing last Commission report, my newly
9 appointed Captain Michael Strickland did such a phenomenal
10 job I am going to let him entertain this one.

11 Go ahead, Michael.

12 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Good morning Commissioners,
13 Director, counsel. I hope everybody is doing well after
14 the holidays.

15 We sent it over and hope everybody has had a
16 chance to review the Marine Patrol report.

17 As you will notice, everything that we cited for
18 violations, or courtesy, is pretty typical for this time
19 of the year.

20 If there are any questions, I will entertain any
21 questions that you may have at this time.

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I was curious about where
23 you've got the crab traps, seventeen.

24 Is that because it was seventeen traps, or is
25 that seventeen different people?

1 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: That was seventeen traps
2 recovered, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I figured it had to be.
4 I didn't figure it was that many people stealing crab
5 traps. I appreciate it.

6 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Yes, sir.

7 If there are no other questions, I will turn it
8 back over. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.
10 Coastal Resources, Ms. Jennifer.

11 JENNIFER WITTMANN: Good morning.

12 We have two items on our agenda today. Willa
13 Brantley will be doing a quick review of our permitting
14 actions from 2020, and, then, Jennifer Wilder has a
15 regulated activity.

16 WILLA BRANTLEY: Good morning. This is Willa.

17 This is just a one slide quick little update of
18 all of the actions that the permitting staff took during
19 the calendar year of 2020.

20 As you can see, there were six hundred and
21 seventy-two total actions. Five hundred and sixty-two of
22 those were regulated activities, or Coastal Zone
23 consistency determinations, where we review Federal
24 permits that are being issued mostly by the Corps of
25 Engineers. We also review oil and gas exploration

1 development out on the outer Continental shelf. So some
2 of those have to do with that.

3 We also did ninety-six reviews of projects to
4 see if they were regulated, also pre-application meetings
5 and discussions with potential applicants.

6 Then, we had fourteen violations that were
7 investigated, during the year.

8 We just wanted to point out the total of what we
9 do and remind the Commissioners that you see actually very
10 little of what we do presented to you, but the permitting
11 staff is always hard at work reviewing activities and
12 meeting with potential applicants and investigating
13 potential violations.

14 If you have any questions, I can answer those
15 now.

16 (No response.)

17 WILLA BRANTLEY: I guess no questions.

18 We will move on to Jennifer Wilder.

19 JENNIFER WILDER: This is Jennifer Wilder and I
20 am presenting a request for a permit by Jackson County
21 Board of Supervisors.

22 They are requesting a ten-year permit for the
23 renourishment of Front and East Beach in Ocean Springs and
24 Pascagoula Beach.

25 It is in the General Use District and the agent

1 is Seymour Engineering.

2 On Front Beach, you are looking at five thousand
3 three hundred and twenty-five feet in length and a hundred
4 feet in width for seven thousand seven hundred cubic yards
5 of sand.

6 East Beach is five thousand six hundred and
7 ninety feet in length, a hundred feet in width and nine
8 thousand eight hundred cubic yards of sand.

9 Pascagoula Beach is ten thousand four hundred
10 and ninety-six feet in length, and it ranges from a
11 hundred and twenty-five to a hundred and fifty feet in
12 width. It is a total of thirty-seven thousand five
13 hundred cubic yards of sand.

14 The first renourishment is a total of fifty-five
15 thousand cubic yards of sand, and any other renourishment
16 they do within the ten years, they will be notifying us of
17 what they need to do.

18 They requested a variance from the Coastal
19 Program:

20 "Permanent filing of coastal wetlands
21 below the mean high tide line because
22 of potential adverse and cumulative
23 environmental impacts is not authorized."

24 They are justifying that request:

25 "Impacts to Coastal wetlands would be

1 no worse than if the guidelines were
2 followed.”

3 The notification for the project appeared in the
4 Sun Herald as required by law, and we received no public
5 comments.

6 DEQ had no comments.

7 Archives and History had no objections.

8 The Secretary of State says this does not
9 present any Public Trust Tidelands Lease issues.

10 wildlife, Fisheries and Parks had no comments.

11 Based on departmental review and evaluation,
12 staff recommends approval of the applicant's request.

13 Now, the PowerPoint does not include any of the
14 diagrams because they were about ten pages apiece, but
15 they were in the information that was posted in the
16 portal.

17 Do you have any questions?

18 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes. I had one question.
19 I looked. I didn't see any diagrams. It looked like the
20 short presentation, short version of the presentation.

21 All of the sand that we are putting on there,
22 where is it going?

23 In other words, we keep putting it back.

24 Do you know where it is going?

25 Has anybody looked at that?

1 JENNIFER WILDER: Yes, sir. I think that it is
2 just natural erosion.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So eroding off into the
4 water?

5 JENNIFER WILDER: Yes, sir, or blowing up onto
6 the beach.

7 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Blowing up on the beach?

8 JENNIFER WILDER: Yes, sir, just the natural...

9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So there is no way to
10 retrieve what we are putting there, instead of putting
11 more?

12 JENNIFER WILDER: Once it goes up on the roads,
13 you can't retrieve it because it's got the different oils
14 and things from the roadways.

15 Jackson County not so far as I know of, but
16 sometimes in situations they do go offshore and dredge and
17 bring the sand back up, but that is not what Jackson
18 County typically does. They are using a company that they
19 have been using for years that they say they are under
20 contract with to bring in the sand.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I can see just looking at
22 the beach it is about time that they add to it because it
23 is starting to hold water in places.

24 JENNIFER WILDER: Yes, sir, and the portal has
25 the different diagrams for each of the beaches on there

1 and it also has a picture. I know you are familiar with
2 what the beaches look like, but it also has a picture of
3 each beach.

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I went to the portal and
5 all I got was the same thing that you just showed us. I
6 tried to look at it, but that was all I could get.

7 Anyhow, it is all good.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, tell me if I'm
9 wrong, but I think this is basically that you can
10 replenish by counting a certain amount of feet, and I know
11 in Harrison County I think it is around two hundred and
12 thirty feet from the seawall that they can replenish
13 without having to go to the Corps, or anyone else, and
14 they can do it, like she said, two ways. They can either
15 bring in the sand from somewhere else and put it there, or
16 they can dredge it, and it depends on the permit of how
17 they were permitted.

18 I think Jackson County was not permitted to
19 dredge. It was only permitted to refill.

20 Is that correct, willa?

21 WILLA BRANTLEY: Yes, sir, that's correct.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: Basically, all they are doing is
23 refilling what they have on a normal basis.

24 Is that correct?

25 WILLA BRANTLEY: Yes, sir. It is the existing

1 footprint of each of the beaches that they are asking to
2 refill to.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, does that help you
4 any?

5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir.

6 That's all the questions I had, Mr. Joe.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay.

8 JENNIFER WITTMANN: That is all for our office.

9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I will make the motion to
10 accept the staff's recommendation.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We have a motion for the
12 recommendation.

13 Do we have a second?

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Havard will
15 second.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We have a motion and a
17 second.

18 All those in favor.

19 Commissioner Guess?

20 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Daniels,
22 aye.

23 Commissioner Bosarge?

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Havard?

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Four to zero. Motion
3 passes.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Next presentation,
5 Finance and Administration, Ms. Leslie.

6 LESLIE BREWER: Good morning Director,
7 Commissioners, legal.

8 My name is Leslie Brewer, CFO. I will be
9 presenting the Agency's financials for the month ending
10 December 31st, 2020.

11 Slide, please, Brady.

12 At the end of December, our State Revenue was
13 three point eight million. Our Total Agency Revenue was
14 thirteen point two million.

15 Our State Net Income was nine hundred and
16 eighteen thousand, and our Total Agency Net Income was two
17 point two million.

18 Next slide.

19 After six months of fiscal year 2021, we have
20 eighty-four point three percent of the Operating Budget
21 remaining, while the Tidelands Budget is at sixty-one
22 percent.

23 Does anyone have any questions?

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I had one question. It
25 wasn't necessarily with the budget.

1 When Jamie was here, Mr. Joe, he set up the
2 yearly audit.

3 Are we still doing that?

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, sir. We have an audit
5 every year.

6 Leslie, did we get a report on it?

7 LESLIE BREWER: No, sir. Actually, we have been
8 talking this morning. They are about to issue the report.
9 We are just waiting to get some things worked out.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: We get one every year, sir, and
11 as soon as get the final report, you will get a copy of
12 it.

13 LESLIE BREWER: Oh, yes. I haven't gotten it
14 yet. I have just got the draft.

15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, I would like to see
16 it, once we get it.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, sir. As soon as we get it,
18 we will. We will put it out to the public for everybody.

19 I know they were finalizing it. I just didn't
20 know if they had ever finished it.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Joe.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: Also, Commissioners, just to
23 give you an update, last year they would not audit our
24 GOMESA. So we paid for an individual audit on GOMESA last
25 year, a separate one, but this year I think it is

1 included.

2 Is that correct?

3 LESLIE BREWER: It is, yes, sir.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: So we didn't have to pay for a
5 separate one.

6 LESLIE BREWER: Correct.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: But we want to have everything
8 that we have -- any dime that we spend, we want it
9 audited.

10 We are doing that and we had to pay, I think it
11 was like eight thousand dollars, or something like that,
12 just to get one on the GOMESA, but I just told them. I
13 said, we have got to have it because I'm not going to go
14 without it.

15 If you haven't gotten copies of any of it, I'm
16 sure they are on the portal.

17 If they are not, if you need a copy of
18 something, we will get it to you.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Good deal. That is good
20 checks and balances.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: I am probably the only person in
22 the state that asks for audits.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Charmaine, are you
24 on?

25 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: I am.

1 Good morning Commissioners, Director Spraggins,
2 Ms. Chesnut.

3 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
4 was mentioned nineteen times in local, state and national
5 media since the December CMR meeting.

6 Popular news items included a vessel fire in
7 Pascagoula, the derelict crab trap removal taking place
8 later this month and the CARES Act application reopening.

9 Marine Patrol assisted in various events that
10 included Christmas on the Water, Christmas on the Bayou
11 and the Lazy Gator Boat Parade.

12 Rick Burris, Deputy Director for the Office of
13 Marine Fisheries, was named a Certified Fisheries
14 Professional, established by the Board of Professional
15 Certification through the American Fisheries Society.

16 That's all I have this month.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Charmaine.

18 No public comments, Joe?

19 JOE SPRAGGINS: No, sir. No public comments, at
20 this time.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Nothing out of Marine
22 Fisheries today.

23 Does anyone have any other business?

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have one thing,
25 Commissioner Daniels.

1 Director Spraggins, what is the status on a new
2 appointment for the Chief Scientific Officer?

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: We are doing interviews this
4 week.

5 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Fantastic. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Mark. Thank
7 you, Joe.

8 If we don't have any public comments, it sounds
9 like that is all we have for today.

10 Can I get a motion to adjourn?

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I make a motion that we
12 adjourn the meeting of the Commissioner on Marine
13 Resources.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second the motion.
15 All those in favor.

16 Commissioner Guess?

17 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Bosarge?

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Havard?

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Daniels,
23 aye.

24 Everyone have a nice day. Thank you.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank y'all.

CERTIFICATE

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2
3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 to hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirty
5 pages, including this page, is a true and correct
6 transcription of the zoom webinar of the January 19, 2021,
7 meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine
8 Resources, to the best of my skill and ability; and,
9 further, that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of
10 any of the parties thereto, nor financially interested in
11 the cause.
12
13

14 s/ _____

15 LUCILLE MORGAN, CSR 1251

16 COURT REPORTER
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